



AO-3  
*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*Office of  
Campaign & Political Finance*

*One Ashburton Place, Boston 02108*

*727-8352*

*Dennis J. Duffin  
Director*

AO-84-3

February 16, 1984

Mr. William C. Venman  
Chairman  
Arts Lottery Political Action Committee  
43 Ridgcrest Road  
Amherst, MA 01002

Dear Mr. Venman:

You have recently requested an advisory opinion concerning the application of G.L. c. 55, the Massachusetts Campaign Finance Law, to certain activities.

You state that you are on the staff of the University of Massachusetts. You inquire as to the implications of that employment on the soliciting and receiving of funds by you for political purposes.

As a member of the staff of the University of Massachusetts, you appear to be a person employed for compensation. Section thirteen of c. 55 states, in relevant part,

"No person employed for compensation, other than an elected officer, by the Commonwealth or any county, city or town shall directly or indirectly solicit or receive any gift, payment, contribution, assessment, subscription or promise of money or other thing of value for the political campaign purposes of any candidate for public office or of any political committee, or for any political purpose whatever, but this section shall not prevent such persons from being members of political organizations or committees."

This section is applicable to you as a public employee, in any capacity, both as an individual and as chairman of a Political Action Committee. The soliciting or receiving of any thing of value for any political purpose whatsoever is prohibited.

This opinion has been rendered solely on the basis of facts as represented by you. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

*Dennis J. Duffin*  
Dennis J. Duffin  
Director